



CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

October 12,
1945
No 1438

EVERY TUESDAY

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

PRICE THREEPENCE

GIVING THE WORLD TWO NEW HOLIDAYS

A United Nations' Calendar?

FOURTEEN nations of the world have approved the suggestions of the World Calendar Association of New York for a new calendar in place of the inconveniences of the present one, and which would give the world two more holidays.

For two hundred years the present Gregorian Calendar has been used by all civilised people, but it is always different from year to year. The quarters are unequal in length, and each quarter begins and ends on a different day and so does each month. Each year it has to be reprinted and the uncertainties of it are inconveniences which the Calendar Association believes could easily be removed.

By 1947 the Association hopes to get the official approval of the United States for a new Calendar which can be used by all nations, and it is hoped that the United Nations will recommend it to the various nation members.

In the new scheme the calendar is the same each year. The quarters are equal in length. Each quarter begins on Sunday and ends on Saturday; it contains 91 days. Month dates always fall on the same weekdays. Each month has 26 weekdays plus Sundays. Each year begins on Sunday, January 1, and the business year begins with Monday, January 2.

Four Equal Quarters

The new Calendar of 12 months and equal quarters, which is based upon the solar year, is 365 days long, with an extra day inserted (or, as the Calendar makers call it, "intercalated") every four years. But four quarters; each of 91 days, account for only 364 days. So the 365th day is set aside as an extra day at the close of every year.

This up-to-date civil Calendar is planned on the familiar basis of a 12-month year, which means that each quarter has three months. But how are 91 days divided into the three months? The matter is handled this way: the first month of each quarter contains 31 days; the other two 30 days each. There is then a pattern for each quarter—31, 30, 30, repeating itself regularly four times a year. This gives January,

WELL DONE, GLEN

At the recent International Championships at Edinburgh the Individual Championship was won by a Scottish dog, Glen, who was entered by Mr J. M. Wilson of Innerleithen, Peebles. Glen is only two years old, yet in his short life he has learned all the sheepdog's wonderful skill. It was his first appearance in an international contest, and if he felt nervous he certainly did not show it.

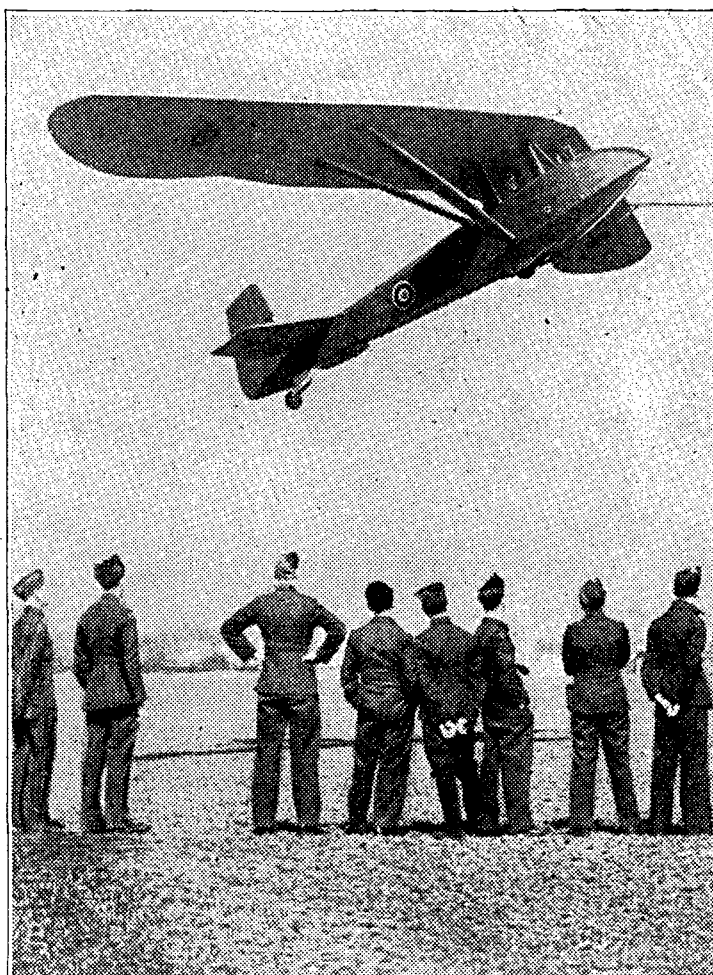
In the championship for sheepdog teamwork Wales won for the fourth time, England was second, and Scotland third.

April, July and October 31 days each, other months having 30 days each.

The next move to bring the Calendar into line with common-sense and plain logic is to have every year, and consequently every quarter, begin on the same day, Sunday, the first day of the week. This means that the same date of the month would come on the same day of the week every year—no more hopping through the week. The national holidays of every country, if the people wish, can be so arranged that they come on Mondays, thus producing desirable long weekends, eliminating the irritating interruptions, and recognising the needs of both employer and employee. Christmas, December 25, comes on Monday every year.

Year-End Day

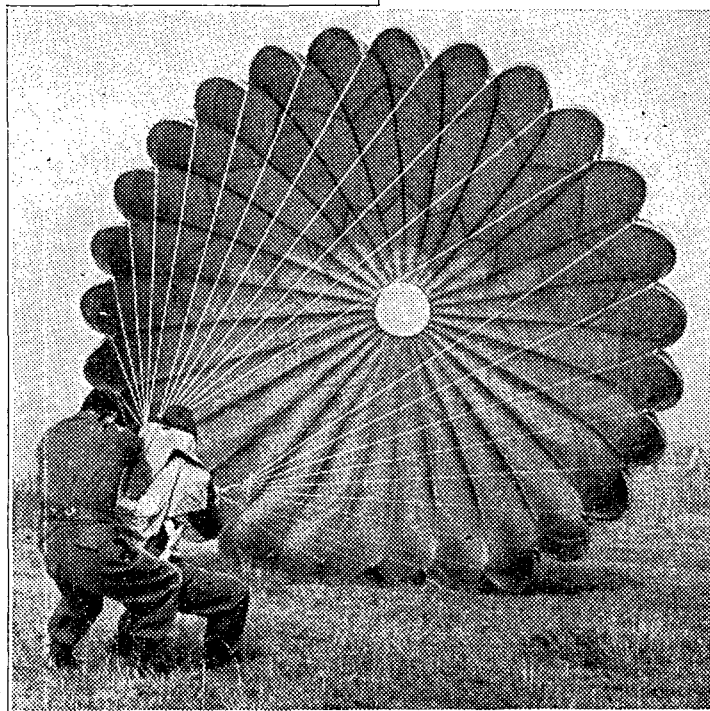
The World Calendar Association holds that the logical place for the 365th day is at the end of December, and it recommends that it be designated a World Holiday by all countries adopting the new Calendar. This World Holiday is like an extra Saturday, called Year-End Day, December W (the 31st). Mankind will have here a world-wide day dedicated to world unity and brotherhood, co-operation and understanding. There is still Leap Year Day, as the new Calendar calls it. This would come in June, on its last day every fourth year and would be the second World Holiday.



GLIDER AND PARACHUTE

ABOVE, some ATC cadets are watching one of their comrades taking his first lesson at a gliding school of the Corps.

Below, airborne troops demonstrate how to handle a parachute in a wind during an Army recruiting campaign.



BOTTLE POST

Making Friends Across the Sea

A STRANGE story of a pen-friendship started by a bottle-borne message comes from Christchurch, Hants. It begins in 1937 when Basil Thorn, aged 13 at that time, picked up an empty bottle on the sands at Easington, Yorkshire, and for fun put a message in it giving his name and address and a request to the finder to write to him. Then he recorked the bottle and returned it to the sea.

Next year, in December 1938, Basil received a letter from Norway. His bottle, overgrown with seaweed and barnacles, had been picked up at Haalstein, a small island near Stavanger, by Karl Sivertsen, a fisherman.

Basil and Karl wrote letters to each other until the outbreak of the war.

As the years went by Basil often wondered what had happened to his Norwegian friend, and then, at Christmas 1945, he received a card from him saying he was alive and well, and hoped Basil was also. Basil was now a young man working at Christchurch, and he made up his mind to visit Norway. He wrote a card to the fisherman saying he was coming, but the card went astray, and great was the astonishment and delight of Karl when he saw his English friend.

Accounting For Taste

HOW THE NOSE HELPS THE TONGUE

THE saying goes that "there's no accounting for taste"; but Professor E. C. Crocker, of Princeton University in America, has lately given an account of it. He makes some suggestions which readers of the CN can try for themselves.

It is the tongue that tastes, but, explains the professor, it must have the support of the nose. The tongue by itself can taste salt, sweet, acid, and bitter, but misses widely the flavour of many other things such as those of fruits, coffee, or butter, which depend more on their smell than on true taste.

The smell of what we are eating can be detected from within the mouth, as well as by sniffing by the nose, because there is a convenient back entry from the mouth to the smelling area within the head; and some of the scented air is pumped up to it each time we swallow.

Now the part smelling has in

taste can be made evident to any CN reader if the nostrils are closed by pinching them, which also will shut off smelling by way of the throat. Then it will be found that coffee, butter, or cinnamon are tasteless; that raw onions are sweet only; that a slice of apple is only sweet or sour, and that a shaving of lemon rind is only bitter. The taste of pepper, black, white, or red, can also be shut off and their hotness, or burning sensation, really depends on another sense—that of touch.

Professor Crocker notes also that a slice of lemon does not taste in tea when the tea is hot, and that lemon drops or acid drops lose their acid taste in the heat of the desert.

Smell is far more acute than taste; a millionth of a milligram of an odorous substance can be smelt, but a thousand times that quantity are needed to give the taste of quinine or saccharin.

RAIN TIME—BROLLIE TIME

MR FRANK REEVE is Johannes-burg's only Umbrella Doctor, and he is now preparing for the busiest time of the year, for the clouds are banking up above the mine dumps on the Rand.

Mr Reeve has many interesting stories to tell about his "patients." One old lady brought him an umbrella which was 65 years old, having belonged to her grandmother, she said. It was quite out of fashion, but it only

required the handle fixing, when it would last for many years.

Four sunshades, used by Rand pioneers to protect them from the dust, have been handed in for renovation to be used as exhibits during the City's 60th birthday celebrations.

One native woman brought in her brollie to be enlarged all round so that her piccaninny, whom she carried on her back, would not get wet.

TOWARDS A BETTER UNDERSTANDING

JOSEPH STALIN speaks to the world so seldom that when he does speak his words have an outstanding importance. He remains the leader of one of the three great Powers which overwhelmed the Nazis who threatened world civilisation and on his policy the rebuilding of world peace mainly depends.

Parliament is at Work Again

THE Parliament of Westminster is reassembling and faces a big programme of work.

Both Houses adjourned early in August, and there are many people who think that over two months' break is too long for our legislators in these times of pressing needs. They picture Ministers and MPs enjoying marvellous holidays and more leisure than schoolchildren get. That is very far from being the case.

Recesses provide a valuable breathing space for the Government, members, and all concerned, not just to enjoy a holiday, but for necessary work away from the floor of the House. This applies especially to Ministers of the Crown who, except for some necessary rest, are just as busy away from Parliament as in it. Recesses give MPs the opportunity of visiting their constituencies, also time for the consideration of new Parliamentary Bills and other projects.

We may be thankful for the Mother of Parliaments, our great forum for free discussion, democratic procedure, and the safeguarding of our liberties. Now that it is back in harness, we must not begrudge it that long summer recess which, in fact, has been very far from being a waste of precious time.

Old Ferry and New Bridge

AT the public inquiry into the Severn Bridge scheme a plea was made for the ferry which for hundreds of years has plied between Aust on the south side of the Severn Estuary and Beachley on the north—the places between which it is proposed to build the new giant bridge.

On behalf of the Old Passage Ferry Company Mr Edmund Davies, K.C., mentioned that a ferry had been established here by the Romans. He pointed out that it would be difficult or impossible to run the ferry once the construction of the bridge was under way, and he asked that either the ferry should be taken over by the Ministry of Transport or compensation should be paid to the company.

It was stated, too, that during August this year alone the ferry had carried 37,000 passengers.

In Roman days the ferry was called Traiectus Augusti. Hence the name Aust, which figures in history also as the traditional meeting place in 603 between St Augustine and the British bishops of Wales and Cornwall. They discussed matters of doctrine and the preaching of the Gospel to the Pagan English, but were unable to agree.

It is thus on historic ground that the erection of Europe's largest suspension bridge is proposed.

National Trust and the Nation

IN their annual report the National Trust emphasise that they are not under State control and receive no grant from the Government for their supremely important work of preserving our places of historic interest and natural beauty; but the Chancellor of the Exchequer has suggested to the House of Commons that at some future time a grant should be made.

Today the Trust owns or controls more than 120,000 acres and 900 properties, but the money for the upkeep of these has to come from the members' subscriptions, from voluntary donations, and from benefactions and bequests. The Government has established a National Land Fund under which land may be accepted in payment of death duties, and some of this land may be handed over to the National Trust to hold, but that at present will only add to the Trust's expenses.

So the National Trust still needs the public's support as much as ever, but out of every million of our population fewer than 230 people support it. Yet millions owe hours of tonic enjoyment to the Trust's work. For over 50 years they have struggled to preserve the beautiful places of England and Wales—hilltops, glades, and woods which might otherwise have been built over, historic buildings which might otherwise have been pulled down.

This year, for example, the National Trust helped to defeat a proposal of the Leicester Corporation for impounding the waters of the rivers Manifold and Dove which would have spoilt the charming valleys of the Dove and Manifold in the Peak District.

A COURAGEOUS PIONEER

THE loss of Britain's most brilliant test-pilot, Mr Geoffrey De Havilland, is a reminder of the hazards faced by the men who are still pioneering in the realms of flight.

The DH Swallow in which Mr De Havilland was flying was to have made an official attack on the world's speed record (616 m.p.h.), and it is said that in earlier flights Mr De Havilland had actually exceeded this speed; and he meant to go faster still.

In venturing into the realms of such high speed new problems arise. And it is men like Geoffrey De Havilland who probe these problems. Their reports, and the records made by scientific instruments, enable the scientists to produce the designs for craft that will overcome the problems.

As Mr Wilmot, Minister of Supply, said to Sir Geoffrey De Havilland, father of Mr De Havilland: "In his courageous and most thorough flight-testing and demonstration with the Mosquito and the Vampire he had already given very great service to aviation... I feel that we have suffered a national loss."

Geoffrey De Havilland was one of the pioneers without whose courageous spirit there would be no progress.

NEWS REEL WORLD

VOLUNTEERS. As a result of the decision of coal miners in the British and American zones of occupation in Germany to work voluntarily on one Sunday in each month, Germans in both zones will be able to obtain coal for domestic use this winter.

A decision was made at the International Medical Conference, held in London, to establish a World Medical Association.

A Lincoln aircraft established a new England to New Zealand air record not long ago by completing the flight in 57 hours.

NIAGARA FALLS. A huge mass of rock fell recently from the American Falls at Niagara, somewhat altering their shape, which was formerly straight. The crash shook buildings in the City of Niagara Falls.

In Burma the Governor, Sir Hubert Rance, has formed an Executive Council consisting of representatives of all Burmese political parties in active existence.

Vickers Viking aircraft, now used on the London-Gothenburg-Stockholm service of British European Airways, have reduced the flying time by 45 minutes.

HOME NEWS REEL

MUSEUM RE-OPENED. The Horniman Museum at London Road, Forest Hill, London, has been re-opened. It exhibits primitive tools and weapons, arts and crafts through the ages, birds, insects, and shells.

As part of their education in democracy, 12 German prisoners-of-war in Cambridgeshire attended the Wisbech Council meeting not long ago.

Raymond Barnes, aged 14, of Harrow, recently dived from a pleasure boat into the Thames at Tower Bridge and rescued a little girl of six who had fallen into the river when paddling and was being carried away by the stream.

LITTLE IS BIGGER. Little Walsingham in Norfolk has now 28 more houses than Great Walsingham.

When the Bishop of London collected money on the steps of St. Paul's Cathedral towards his £750,000 appeal for the reconstruction of Church life in the diocese, he received gifts at the rate of £4000 an hour.

For the first time for 50 years Worton in Wiltshire is to have a policeman living there.

Mr A. Leicester Hewitt, of Hunstanton, Norfolk, has made a miniature tableau of London's Victory Parade which contains more than 50,000 pieces.

YOUTH NEWS REEL

HAY - FEVER CAMPAIGN. Scouts of New York, U.S.A., have co-operated with Mayor O'Dwyer in a campaign against hay-fever, by urging citizens to destroy ragweed, the plant mainly responsible for the disease.

Lord Rowallan, Chief Scout of the British Commonwealth and Empire, who is successfully working through a heavy programme of engagements during his two-months' tour of Canada, recently received the freedom of Vancouver.

The Cornwell Scout Badge has been awarded to two dis-

Canada recently sent a record cargo of seven million lbs of first-grade bacon to Britain.

BEST SELLER. Moscow radio announced recently that since Mr Stalin's book on the history of the Communist Party was first published eight years ago, 31,317,000 copies have been issued.

King Christian of Denmark has dissolved the Faroes Parliament and ordered a new election following Denmark's refusal to recognise the Faroes declaration of independence.

A ring of technical colleges for training workers for new and expanding Australian industries are to be built around Sydney.

The Second Airborne Division football team is to be dropped on to the field by parachute at their matches in Northern India.

MORE RICE. The world's rice crop this year will be about 6300 million bushels, nearly 600 million bushels more than last year, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Prague Trade Fair, which closed not long ago, was visited by nearly 900,000 people, of whom 15,000 were foreigners.

THE CHAMPION. The Championship Committee of the Amateur Athletic Association has awarded Sydney Wooderson the Harvey Memorial Gold Cup for being the best champion of the year, and the C. N. Jackson Memorial Cup for the best British winner in the championships.

On her 100th birthday recently Mrs Eliza Garraway, of Bath, had her photograph taken for the first time in her life.

The Britain Can Make It Exhibition is to remain open until the end of November.

SCHOOLGIRL MAYORESS. The first woman Mayor of Bexley in Kent, Mrs E. Boswell, has chosen 13-year-old Jean Owen to act as Mayoress.

At Burnt Oak, London, 600 mothers have launched a campaign to protect schoolchildren from the influence of gangster and other unsuitable films.

Brighton is to have a new £14,000,000 electricity power station, which will adjoin the existing one at Southwick.

MORE BABIES. The number of births for the June quarter, 203,797, is the highest recorded in this country since the June quarter of 1925.

Road deaths in August, 446, were 42 fewer than in August last year and below the average of pre-war Augusts.

abled Wolf Cubs in recognition of their courage and cheerfulness during illness lasting several years. They are John Perigo, of the 22nd Bradford East (St. Clements) Scout Group, and Robert Wilfred Lander, a Cub of the 319th Manchester Group.

PAPER SALVAGE. During the war Scouts collected nearly 100,000 tons of waste paper. The best records were made by Norwich Scouts, 1381 tons, and Harpenden (Herts) Scouts, 1007 tons; the best individual Troop being the 1st Balderton (Notts), which collected, baled, and despatched 275 tons.

JUST LIKE THAT

ONE night this summer there was a great wrestling match at the Durban City Hall, which Charlie, a coloured boy attended. On the following day he entertained his friends to a display, by himself, of how the holds were done, giving a commentary as he twisted himself into all kinds of knots.

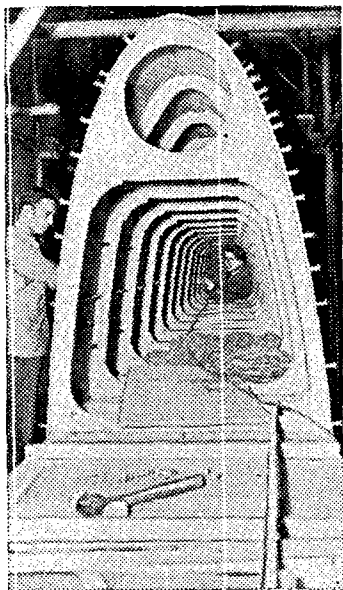
"Wow," said Charlie, wide-eyed, as he described the final scene, "the inkusi (bull) pulled mafuta (the fat one) just like that." He twisted himself.

"Mafuta went back and back and back . . ."

Charlie also went back, and back, and back, and overbalancing, fell backwards and, hitting his head on a stone, knocked himself out for a moment or two.

"Ah," he said, sitting up, "it was a good KO!"

Tail of a Plane



The huge eight-engined airliner Erabazon I, which is being built at Bristol, will weigh more than 100 tons. These men are working on the leading edge of the tail plane.

Holiday School

TASMANIA is experimenting with a holiday school for children living in isolated areas.

Two hours of schoolwork a day are all the children get in the way of formal education. The rest of the time is spent in the open air, where the young ones learn how to do somersaults and other gymnastics, how to swim and row.

The school is at Bellerive, a Hobart suburb, in an old home set in spacious grounds near a beach; and its sponsors think it will prove a great boon.

Was King Lear the Son of an Airman?

THE beautiful yet tragic grandeur of Shakespeare's King Lear has been brought to life again by the Old Vic Company at the New Theatre, London, with a fine performance by Mr Laurence Olivier, in the part of the monarch of ancient Britain who was betrayed by two of his daughters.

Shakespeare took the tale of King Lear mainly from the History of British Kings, written by Geoffrey of Monmouth in the 12th century. In this work the writer, who became Bishop of St Asaph, concentrated his efforts on the stories of British kings

ACCORDING to the Minister of Food potatoes are not to be rationed. Crops this year, from 1,231,000 acres, are expected to be 8,703,000 tons, a slight increase on last year's figures.

Potatoes, which we were so long in accepting, are now, next to cereals, our most important food crop. Yet, little more than two centuries ago a famous English writer on agriculture condemned the potato as less valuable than the radish!

The conquering Spaniards brought the potato back from South America early in the 16th century. They called it patata

NIGHT-FIGHTERS AS EVANGELISTS

OF 170 Oxford and Cambridge undergraduates who have been carrying out a Michaelmas Mission in Yorkshire, two are ex-RAF officers who, flying together in a night-fighter during the war, brought down 28 enemy planes. They are Braunce Bowbridge and Bill Skelton, both of whom won the DSO and Bar, and the DFC and Bar. Over 20 of the young men with them on this preaching mission were prisoners-of-war.

Before Motor-Cars

IN the early days of this century our streets were filled with horse-drawn vehicles, but today only a few of these remain with us—a dray, a waggon, or a trap here and there, perhaps.

Believing that before very long there will be no examples of the carriage builder's craft in existence, Sir Garrard Tyrwhitt-Drake is co-operating with the Corporation of Maidstone in collecting specimens of 18th and 19th-century carriages to form a museum, so that those who come after may be able to see the kinds of vehicles in which their forebears travelled. Already several have been collected, but Sir Garrard Tyrwhitt-Drake is appealing to old families and jobmasters for more old carriages, such as a mail coach, a curricule (a kind of trap with two wheels), a horse bus, and a hansom cab.

This carriage museum will be housed in a 14th-century building originally used as stables and coach-houses by the Archbishop of Canterbury when he visited Maidstone.

MOOR WEALTH

By a fortunate discovery on the moors between Scarborough and Whitby a supply of ganister, or hard sandstone, is now available for making linings for furnaces. There has been a shortage of raw material for this purpose, but now 60 or 70 tons of ganister is being obtained every week from the neighbourhood of Ramsdale.

before the English conquest, and among them were the tales of King Arthur and "King Leir."

According to Geoffrey, King Leir was the son of Bladud, a mythical British king who is said to have built a town which we now know as Bath. Bladud, a man of many fancies, is said to have tried to fly with wings; he went high into the air, fell, and was killed over the city of Trinovantum—now London.

King Leir is recorded as having governed his country nobly for 60 years. He built a town on the site where the city of Leicester now stands.

The Wonderful Earth Apple

—as, with the Italians, they still do—after the native batata, meaning sweet potato. The Dutch, who were the first on the Continent after the Spaniards to adopt the potato, regarded it, as we long did in England, as merely a garden curiosity. They still call potatoes aardappelen, which means earth apples; the French pomme de terre also means earth apple.

Ireland, to whom Sir Francis Drake introduced the potato, led all Europe in its cultivation. So important an item of food did it become in Ireland that when the crop failed a century ago widespread famine resulted. Lancashire followed Ireland in potato cultivation, and from there it spread to Scotland and then to Germany. In Germany, however, it was grown under compulsion, at the bidding of Frederick the Great. But as regards the potato it is Drake, not Frederick, whom Germany honours, or did honour; at Offenburg in Baden, 93 years ago, they erected a statue to him as the man who brought the potato from America!

The potato, a native of South America, does not thrive in the

tropics, where it is badly needed. Just before the war the British Government subsidised a scientific mission sent from Jamaica to the Peruvian highlands, which was to seek kindred varieties of the common potato in the hope of finding a strain by which our potato might be modified to produce a kind that can stand the conditions of the hot lands, and so bring an important addition to the food supply of our tropical colonies. Delightful as are many of the tropical products, the food value of most of them is much inferior to that of the potato.

A MANSION FOR LANCASHIRE

THE fourteenth-century mansion Broughton Tower and an estate of 1205 acres at Broughton-in-Furness have been presented to the Lancashire County Council by Sir Robert Rankin, a former Liverpool MP and retired ship-owner.

This 30-roomed mansion, situated in the extreme north of Lancashire, near the Cumberland border, commands fine views of the Lancashire-Cumberland coastline and fells; it is close to the Duddon Estuary and Valley. It has been suggested that the mansion be converted into an open-air school for delicate and invalid children.

A Fine Apprenticeship Scheme

By fixing a high standard for boys who enter the Royal Ordnance factories, the Royal Aircraft and the Ministry of Supply establishments, the Government hopes that the standard in industry generally will be raised.

The Government is introducing a new five-year apprenticeship scheme for both craft and engineering apprentices between 16 and 17. Craft apprentices will be chosen by local apprenticeship boards, but engineering apprentices will be recruited on a national basis, and will have to pass examinations.

The Government hope that about four per cent of these apprentices will be awarded scholarships at the universities.

The purpose of this excellent scheme is to turn out all-round craftsmen and technicians, and not just factory hands.

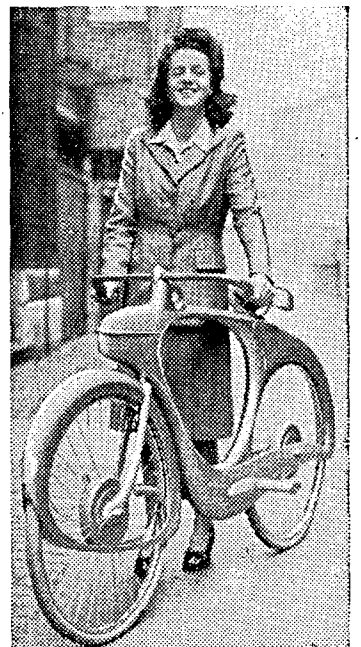
A WORD FOR MANCHESTER

IN the Journal of the Weather Office a protest appears against the not uncommon assertion that it is nearly always raining in Manchester.

In fact, Manchester's yearly rainfall is little more than that for the whole of England, about 40 inches instead of 35½ inches, though that of London is certainly smaller than either. Out of 100 days 47 in Manchester are without rain. Can London, in recollection of the past summer, say as much? If a Test Match at Old Trafford was washed out, so was the Test Match at the Oval. Manchester, however, is certainly worse off for sunshine. At Oldham Road there are only on the average 2½ hours a day of sun.

In respect of fog the "Manchester particular" is no thicker than London's "pea souper." So let the critics call it quits.

Looking Ahead



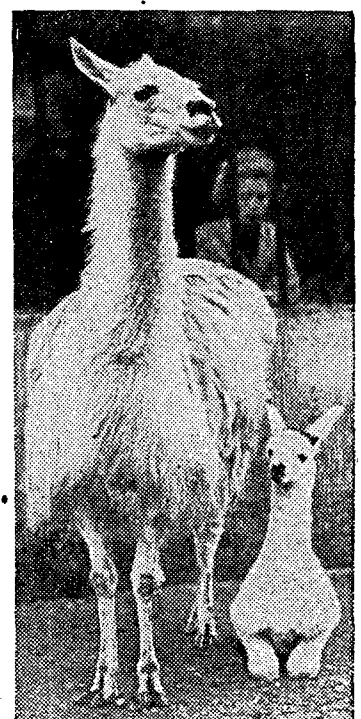
This bicycle of the future, at the Britain Can Make It Exhibition, has among other things a streamlined frame of light alloys, shaft drive, and a dynamo and motor set which assists hill-climbing.

PLASTIC FOR SAFETY GLASS

A NEW kind of laminated safety glass which can stand nearly three times as much strain as the old sort is now being produced by the Triplex Safety Glass Company for use in cars and planes.

Laminated safety glass has consisted up to now of two sheets of glass with a layer between them of cellulose acetate. Now the interlayer is to consist of a plastic material called Vinal, whose elasticity is 350 per cent compared with the 40 per cent of cellulose acetate. To break a car windscreen made of this new glass a missile would have to be three times as heavy as one that would break the old safety glass.

New Arrival



The proud mother is Lady, a llama at the London Zoo, and her attractive baby is named Paul.

Load of Mischief?



A joint U.S.-Canadian scientific expedition has been cruising in Arctic waters to study navigational and weather conditions. In Smith Sound the scientists met this little Eskimo girl, who carries her baby brother slung on her back.

STRONG BOY

A THIRTEEN-YEAR-OLD Belfast schoolboy, "Billy Boy" Firth, has become famous for his remarkable weight-lifting feats. He is credited with lifting two hundredweights with the ease of a schoolboy lifting his exercise book.

"Billy Boy" was offered a contract with a circus, but he says that he is not a professional and will stay at school until he is 16. By that time, by serious training on a scientific basis, he hopes to be well on his way to achieving his ambition of becoming a champion weight-lifter.

Industries For the Highlands

WHILE the big power schemes for Scotland are still in the planning stage much is being done to develop natural resources in remote regions and so to prevent young Highlanders leaving their hamlets and glens for the cities.

For example, seaweed gathered on the shores of the great sea-lochs will be transported to a factory at Benbecula and also to a new factory at Barcaldine. As much as 20,000 tons of sea-tangle has been cast up on the shore of South Uist, and the gathered tangle will be processed at these factories and used to manufacture paper, plastics, fertilisers, cattle fodder, and many other products.

Again, in the tiny mountain hamlet of Garve, Ross, a home industry has been set up and sporrans, belts, buckles, purses, and inkstands are being manufactured from deer hide and horn.

At Easdale, near Oban, Government experts are experimenting with oyster breeding in a disused quarry, and several lochs are being surveyed for the same reason.

The C.N. has already described a fish-feeding experiment in Loch Sween which resulted in a rapid increase in the size of the fish. Now the Department of Zoology at Edinburgh University announces a large-scale national test so that more food can be obtained from the sea.

In many another part of Scotland educational committees are planning to set up handicraft centres in schools, each centre teaching crafts peculiar to its own district, and are thus trying to stay the migration of young people to the big cities.

FRENCH LIGHT CARS

AT the Paris Motor Show which opened last week chief interest was shown in a small 3 h-p Panhard. This four-door, four-seater car has a cruising speed of 40 m.p.h. and does 60 to 70 miles to the gallon.

Other small cars on view for the first time included a 4 h-p Renault with the power and transmission unit mounted at the back, and the Mathis three-wheeler, also a 4 h-p model.



Monday Morning

Woman's work is never done; but these two little girls are making light of their self-imposed tasks of wringing and ironing at the Belting Nursery Home, Herne Bay.

PLAYTIME IN AN ANCIENT FORTRESS

THE Government of Zanzibar have chosen a queer home for their new civic welfare centre for women and children; the centre is to be established within the walls and towers of an ancient Portuguese fort.

They have chosen this building, a grim relic of Zanzibar's days of warfare, cruelty, and slavery, so that women using the clinic may keep discreetly out of sight of the public. For Zanzibar is a city of old traditions, and one of them is the adherence of a certain section of the community to the purdah custom which rules that women must not appear in public.

Zanzibar, capital of the British Protectorate of that name which consists of two islands close to the coast of Tanganyika, is a romantic eastern city with narrow streets and big mansions of the old Arab nobility with massive carved wooden doors. It has had a violent and colourful history. It was occupied by the Portuguese in the 15th century, by the Turks in the 16th century, and in the 17th century the Imams of Muscat built up their power there. In the 19th century Arabs, who ravaged South Africa for ivory and slaves, invaded the

island. Now, on the site of the old slave market there stands, appropriately, the Anglican Cathedral.

Today Zanzibar is peopled by an astonishing variety of races including Portuguese, Arab, Negro, Persian, and Swahili. The citizens retain many of the ways of their forefathers in the days when the two islands were part of an Oriental despotism, but modern Zanzibar is not backward. It has a splendid modern harbour, its houses and streets are lit by electricity, and the latest development of a welfare centre for women and children shows that this traditional eastern city is inspired with the spirit of our times.

Work on converting the old Portuguese fort to its new humane use has begun, and our Colonial Development and Welfare Fund has allocated £2000 to cover the cost. There is to be a children's playground where, 400 years ago, trod Portuguese soldiers in shining helmets; there is to be a walled garden for those women who insist on seclusion; a health clinic, reading rooms, and a lecture hall combined. But the original features of this historic fort are to be preserved wherever possible.

Beechmast and Acorns Wanted

COLLECTING acorns and beechmast is again work of national importance for Scouts, Guides, and schoolboys and girls this autumn. Farmers need the acorns or beechmast because of the restricted supply of feeding stuffs for pigs and poultry. But before setting out on such an expedition the acorn hunters should make sure they have a market for their haul, and it is wise to ask local pig and poultry keepers how much of this supplementary food supply they require.

A fair price for acorns in good condition is from five shillings to seven shillings and sixpence per cwt, and for beechmast—in its natural state and free from burrs—from seven shillings and sixpence to ten shillings per cwt.

Permission of the owner, of course, has to be obtained before entering private property to collect acorns or beechmast.

The Editor's Table

A NEW EUROPE

MR CHURCHILL, in his speech to the Zurich students last month, sounded a call to Europe, "this noble continent," as he called it, "home of all the great parent races of the western world, the foundation of Christian faith and Christian ethics." It was a call to believe once again "in the European family"—the combination of races, tongues, and culture, which has given to the world some of its fairest hopes and dreams.

Europe lies tragically smitten by two horrible wars in thirty years. Some of her finest cities are heaps of rubble, millions of her peoples are anxious about their future.

"We must all turn our backs," said Mr Churchill, "upon the horrors of the past and must look to the future. We cannot afford to drag forward, across the years that are to come, hatreds and revenges which have sprung from the injuries of the past. If Europe is to be saved from infinite misery, and indeed from final doom, there must be this act of faith in the European family, this act of oblivion against all crimes and follies of the past."

These are noble words which pronounce the unexpressed hopes of Europe's peoples. They speak for the Swiss student and the French peasant, for the German and every other Continental race. They speak, too, for Britain because we in this land know that our well-being is closely linked with that of our neighbours.

EUROPE—small nations as well as large—is much more than a continent. It is the birthplace and home of mankind's noblest attempts to create a civilised life where art, beauty, and the sciences may be at the service of all. Here men have tried to be what, at their best moments, they have dreamt they might become. Poets and dreamers, artists and philosophers, have fashioned their creations in Europe in stone, wood, paint, and print. Europe has inspired her peoples to live for the advent of that *morn divine* When nations may as forests grow, Wherein the oak hates not the pine, Nor beeches wish the cedars woe, But all, in their unlikeness, blend Confederate to one golden end.

But, alas, from her life has also come bitter discord. Can Europe now make a new start?

It is Mr Churchill's hope, and the hope of every other good European, that the nations of this continent, in spite of all their conflicting aims, may become a United States of Europe—its several nations banded together in a steadfast loyalty to common ideals of freedom, law, and peaceful progress.

School Broadcasts

IN England and Wales 13,420 schools are registered as taking the B.B.C. school broadcasts, and in Scotland 1316.

It has become a habit with parents to say that school today is a far more interesting place than it was when they were young. Of course it is; it is a matter of progress. And it seems to us, after listening to broadcasts and reading some of the pamphlets prepared for the autumn term of school broadcasts, that wireless has contributed much to that happy state.

Wireless—and the cinema too—must enter more and more into school life. Both, properly handled, are powerful forces for education.

SAFETY FIRST

THE Education and Road Safety Committees of Twickenham, Middlesex, have decided not to allow children under eleven to cycle to school unless the circumstances are very exceptional. In special cases licences and identity discs attached to the cycles are to be issued.

Twickenham's example might well be followed elsewhere.

Vigilant Peace



Our picture shows the design for one side of the silver medallion which is to be presented to the heads of delegations at the Peace Conference in Paris. The traditional olive branch is prominently displayed, but the symbolical figure of Peace is represented as being armed with spear and shield.

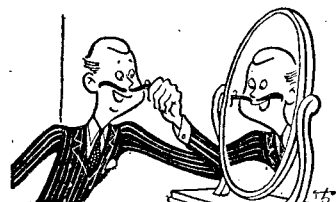
Under the E

AN American lady gave a reporter some points on how to be well dressed. Hope they stuck in his memory.

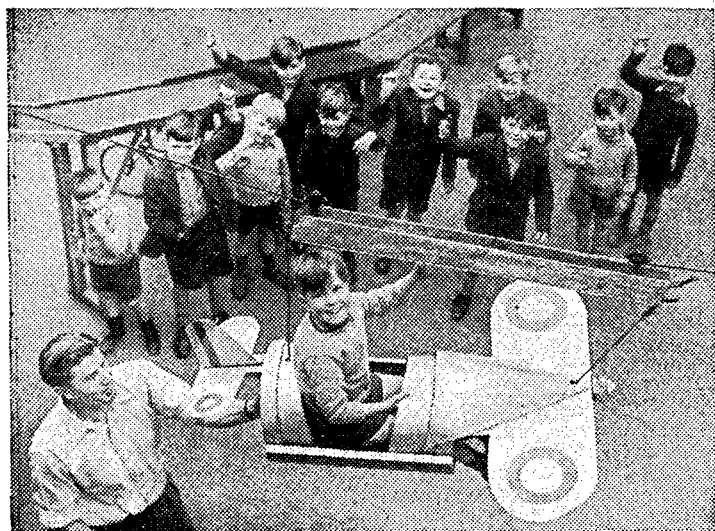
TAILORS are busy. Have their work cut out.

A MAN has written a book about the weather. Not a dry subject.

ANOTHER drive is to be made to finish building houses. And then another to them.



A MOUSTACHE gives a young man a touch of age. And it grows on him!



Taking Off

The boys at Catherine's Home, Hampstead Garden Suburb, have an aeroplane which glides across their playground on a wire 100 yards long. It was constructed out of a tub and tin (for the wings) by Mr J. L. Moults-Spiers, who is in charge of the Home.

THINGS SAID

I AM convinced that the world cannot stand another global war, and as I see it, the thing to prevent such a tragedy from happening is education.

General Eisenhower

THERE is a lot of nonsense talked about a wave of crime among the young. In most cases they only need a good talking to by someone who knows how to talk to them, and we would hear no more of it.

F. O. Langley,
the Old Street magistrate

NEVER allow yourselves to be cynical or pessimistic about world affairs. Air Chief Marshal Lord Dowding

WITHOUT a solution of the coal problem the whole structure of British economy must fail.

Arthur Horner, Secretary
of the Mineworkers' Union

THE British Commonwealth is a family of free nations; free to stay, free to go.

Anthony Eden

Fashion Note

TWO-COLOUR suits for men are evidently coming into production next year.

It is to be hoped that a fair supply of these new suits will come into the home market. The Council of Industrial Design is responsible for this change from the drab austerity of wartime wear.

Anything that is going to add to brightness is welcome; and why not two, or even more than two, colours, provided that they are in harmony? The time was when men's wear assumed many colours, as in Elizabethan days—and their wearers certainly lived vigorous, colourful lives!

AUTUMN GRACE

No Spring, nor Summer beauty hath such grace
As I have seen in one Autumnal face.

Donne

Editor's Table

PETER PUCK
WANTS TO
KNOW



If dyeing is
an absorbing
occupation

sums than they are now. Will add
to their accomplishments.

A NEWSPAPER heading says:
Our Meat Ration Made Safe. To keep
itself in?

THE most stirring
time of the day
—Tea time.

GIRLS of the future
will be better at
sums than they are now. Will add
to their accomplishments.

IN the new London telephone books
a map will show the telephone
exchanges. A good plan.

A MAN says he likes to go for a good
tramp. A bad one would be
more likely to deserve it.

AN American visitor admires the
broom on our English com-
mons. Better than a vacuum
cleaner.

Welcome Back

RICHARD BRINSLEY SHERIDAN described one of his characters as "the very pineapple of politeness." Thus highly esteemed was that delightful fruit in the elegant period of powder, patches, and wigs!

Pineapples are certainly among the most delicious of fruits, but we have seen little of them for a long time and there are many young children who have never seen them at all. The news that 2000 tons of pineapples are being shipped from the Azores is a happy sign of better times to come. Please, Mr Strachey, could we have some more tinned pineapple too?

A Little Learning

A LITTLE learning is a dangerous thing;

Drink deep, or taste not the
Pierian spring;

These shallow draughts intoxicate the brain,
And drinking largely sobers us again.

Fired at first sight with what the
Muse imparts,
In fearless youth we tempt the
heights of arts,

While, from the bounded level
of our mind,

Short views we take, nor see the
lengths behind;

But more advanced, behold with
strange surprise,

New distant scenes of endless
science rise!

So pleased, at first the towering
Alps we try,

Mount o'er the vales, and seem
to tread the sky;

The eternal snows appear already
past,

And the first clouds and moun-
tains seem the last:

But those attained, we tremble
to survey

The growing labours of the
lengthened way,

The increasing prospect tires
our wandering eyes,

Hills peep o'er hills, and Alps
on Alps arise!

Alexander Pope

RECONSTRUCTION

THE men engaged on building 70 houses at Bexley Heath in Kent agreed to give each day an extra half-hour's work, without pay, to speed up this important task.

Certain it is that the reconstruction of Britain, and of the world in general, can only be accomplished when all are willing to put more into the common pool than they take out. The Bexley Heath builders have shown the way.

Anticipation

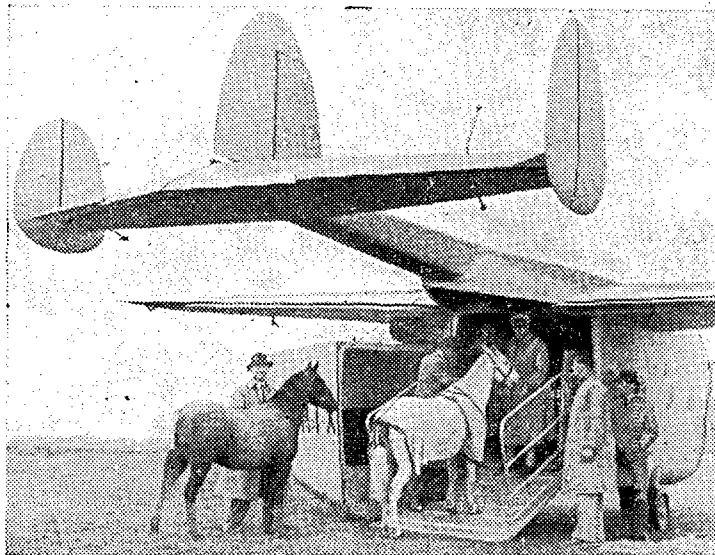
LOOK forward what's to come,
and back what's past;
Thy life will be with praise and
prudence graced;

What loss or gain may follow,
thou mayst guess;

Thou then wilt be secure of the
success. Sir John Denham

JUST AN IDEA

To conceal a fault by a lie is
like substituting a hole for a stain.



Flying Ponies

The ponies in this picture are entering the roomy cabin of a Miles Aerovan which has been fitted as a horse-box.

THE BARONY CHURCH

A distinguished lady who read *New Life for the Old Kirk* in a recent *CN* has sent us these further notes on the Barony Church, with which her family have had close connections for three generations.

My great-grandfather, Dr John Burns, was appointed by the Crown, Minister of the Barony when they worshipped in the crypt of the cathedral. This crypt is well known to readers of Sir Walter Scott, as he gives a description of Rob Roy's concealment behind one of its pillars, when he goes to warn Frank Osbaldistone.

I believe Dr Burns started a new fashion, the wearing of a wig, and as he was forcing his way through crowds up to the church at the special Fast Day Service, when he was to preach, he heard one woman say to the other: "Did ye ever see sic a head for a Fast Day?" Up till then the ministers had always had their heads powdered.

Dr Burns was the Minister of the Barony for 72 years. He was described as a man "with gifts of prayer and talents in preaching," and had a great love for all young people. He was a pioneer in work among the young, having Sunday schools which he claimed to be the first of such classes for boys and girls. His youngest son, my grandfather, Sir George Burns, one of

the founders of the Cunard Line, told me that one of his earliest recollections was the removal of the Barony congregation to the Barony Church, and it was a very great relief to the minister and to the congregation to come into daylight and fresh air from the dark and damp where they had for so long worshipped.

In 1887, when my grandfather was 94, he travelled to Glasgow from Wemyss Bay for the laying of the foundation stone of the new Barony Church, and delivered almost an oration, speaking of his father and of his pride in being a son of the Manse.

My father, son of Sir George Burns, was a great friend of Dr Norman Macleod, Minister of the Barony; they had much in common, and did many things together for the City of Glasgow.

The link between the Barony Church and the family of Burns was very close through all those years.

Raised by the Wind

AMONG the freak effects of the recent gales was the sudden increase in height of a brick wall a few miles from Ashford in Kent. A row of trees near the wall blew down in the gale, away from the brickwork. Their roots, which had extended under the foundations, lifted the wall, in one piece, raising it several inches.

Children's Books of Other Lands

AN exhibition called Children's Books from Many Lands is now open in London at the Salon De Livre, 72 Charlotte Street, W1, the premises of the Anglo-French Literary Services Limited. The books, mainly those for younger children, are from Belgium, Denmark, France, Greece, Italy, Norway, Switzerland, the U.S.A., and the U.S.S.R.

The exhibition is open until October 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily except Saturdays and Sundays. It is mainly one for book-sellers, publishers, librarians, and teachers, but it is open also to the general public and is an interesting display of the kind of books young people in other countries like to read.

What is a Coin Worth?

BRITAIN'S silver coinage will soon have no silver in it. Owing to the present shortage of the metal our new "silver" coins will be made of a copper-nickel alloy, and the existing ones will be withdrawn. Neither size nor design of the coins will be changed.

What our coins are made of has no relation to their buying-power, a fact illustrated by the recent circulation of plastic coins for our forces in Germany.

British occupation troops are no longer paid in marks, and only the new voucher currency is accepted in canteens, clubs, and so on. These "coins," together with notes for the larger denominations, go by the same name as ordinary British money.

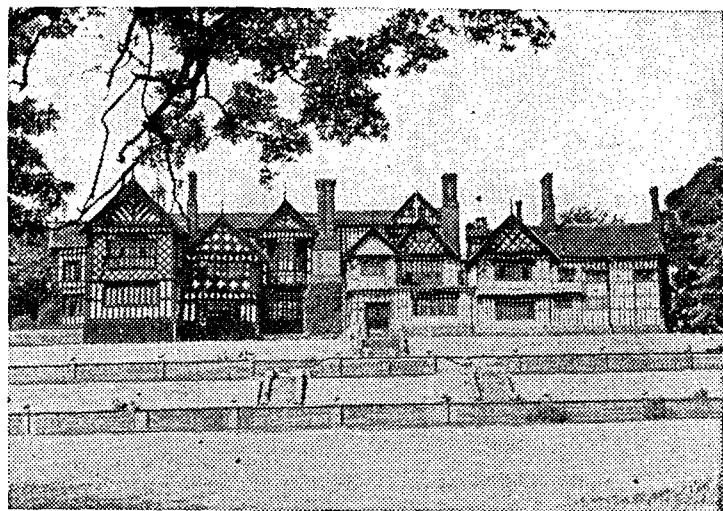
The Americans in their Zone have followed the British example and introduced a token currency for occupation forces.

When Germany was first occupied the Allied Forces took their own paper marks with them, and these, like the German marks, had a fixed value in the British Zone of 40 marks to the £. But some of the Germans with money to spare have tempted British troops to sell cigarettes at anything from five to 20 marks apiece. Similarly, it has been possible to obtain for a few hundred cigarettes a camera or a watch which no amount of money would buy.

New Currency

To stop this, the new currency, known as the British Armed Forces Special Vouchers, has been introduced, and we are reminded once again that money in itself is of little actual value—a shilling piece costing probably more to make than a pound note.

When a man of the Rhine Army has a cup of tea in a canteen he enjoys and pays for the result of a long chain of human effort. The workers on the tea plantation in the East, the seamen who bring it to England, the people who blend, pack, and transport it, the canteen workers who brew it in Germany—all these and many others have to earn money in various currencies for their work in producing a cup of tea; yet the soldier pays for it with a plastic disc which costs only a fraction of a farthing to produce, but represents work which he himself has done.



THIS ENGLAND

Bramhall Hall, one of Cheshire's finest timbered houses, is now a museum

A Lonely Outpost of the Empire

AFTER sixteen years on the isolated Pacific island of Niue, Mr and Mrs Harold Taylor have reached England to tell the story of one of our Empire's loneliest outposts.

Nearly 1400 miles to the north of New Zealand, Niue stands above the Pacific rollers, a giant coral rock. Its steep cliffs rise to over 200 feet, and, unlike many Pacific islands, its coastline provides few beaches and no creeks. It is a grim, hard island, but 4000 people live there.

The Niueans are a light-brown coloured people, deeply attached to their island home and now included for administrative purposes in Greater New Zealand. During the War they were cut off from the world but the Japanese did not attack them.

Food, and its possible shortage, was their chief anxiety. Three-quarters of the island is bush-land with only a thin covering of soil which is soon washed away by the fierce rains. But the Niueans are expert cultivators of sweet potatoes, bananas (which New Zealand buys), and coconuts, the prime provider of food; and of copra used in soap and glycerine making.

Fishing by Torchlight

Fish caught in the traditional way by spearing and netting takes the place of fresh meat. Every night the fishing canoes set out with lighted torches which are waved over the surface of the sea. The fish leap to the light and are caught dexterously with a sweep of the arm.

The single road on Niue runs round the 40-mile circumference of the island and links up the 12 villages. In each village the central building is the church established during the last

hundred years by the London Missionary Society. Its broad roof serves as a catchment area of the rain, which is drawn off into storage barrels, for water is precious on Niue. There are no rivers, streams, or wells, so the island is dependent on its rainfall.

In the records of the Niue churches, say Mr and Mrs Taylor, the word "kidnapped" is often written against certain names. That word is a reminder of the evil days of the 1860s, when slave ships from the silver mines of Peru carried off hundreds of young Niue men to forced labour from which they never returned.

A more welcome invasion, however, had happened in 1846, when Paulo, a Samoan, ventured across to Niue from Samoa, 350 miles away, carrying a New Testament. He clambered up the steep cliffs and started a school for Niue children. Later on, from Aldermaston, near Reading, a young Berkshire lad, W. G. Lawes, arrived and translated the scriptures into Niuean. In the 1914 war a hundred Niueans served in France, each carrying in his knapsack a Bible in his own tongue.

When he discovered the island Captain Cook called the islanders "savage," and on old maps Niue is marked as Savage Island. This reputation its people have long since removed by their friendliness and kindness to strangers who penetrate to their lonely fastness—and especially to those who, like Mr and Mrs Taylor, live among them.

LITTLE BEAR AND GREAT BEAR

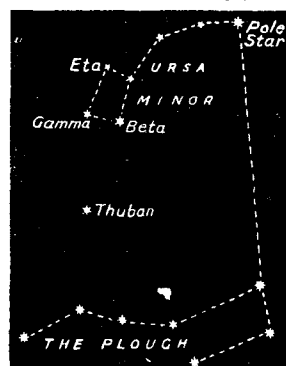
By the C N Astronomer

THE chief stars of Ursa Minor—the Little, or more correctly, Lesser Bear—are not readily identified unless the stars of the Plough, or Ursa Major, are used as an aid.

From the star-map, though on a very small scale, it can be seen how the two stars Beta and Alpha of the Plough point almost directly to the Pole Star, and how Beta and Gamma of the Little Bear are situated relative to the Handle of the Plough or, more correctly, the long Tail of the Great Bear. The precise locality of Thuban, the Pole Star of 5000 years ago, is also indicated. Owing to their present low altitude in the north these stars are not well placed in these latitudes until late at night, or in the early morning when they are almost overhead.

Pole Star is Three Suns

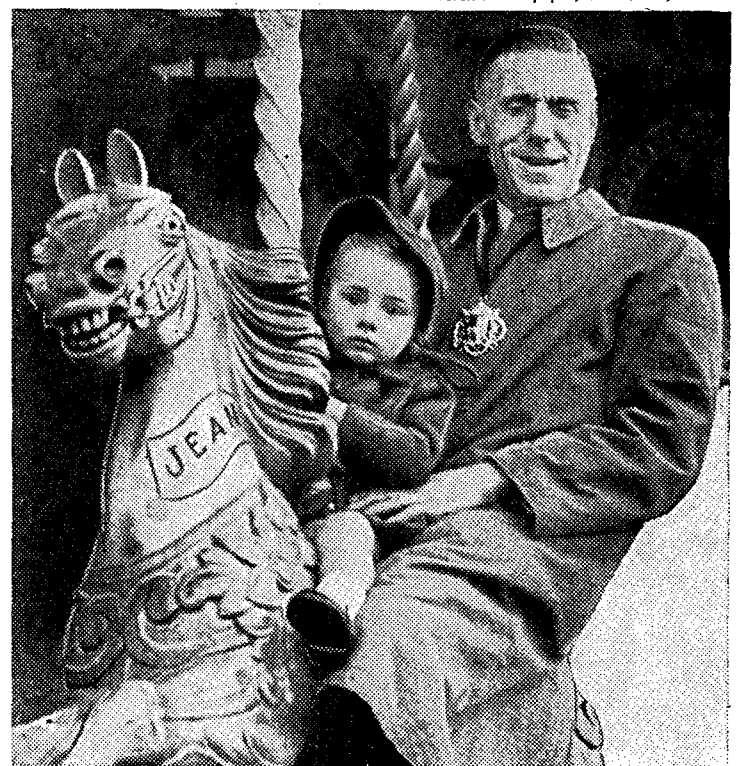
However, Polaris, the present Pole Star, is where it always appears nowadays, and the other stars of the Little Bear are well placed for observation. The Pole Star is of particular interest apart from its aid in finding the true north point, because it is in fact composed of three suns. A telescope of only three inches aperture will reveal a ninth-magnitude companion to the chief star, which itself is of second magnitude. This faint "companion," if it is at the same distance as the other (about 250 light-years' journey), would



be a sun about twice as bright as our Sun and somewhat larger. But it may only appear close through being seen in the line-of-sight; and perhaps it is very much farther than the bright yellowish chief star.

This one has the peculiarity of being variable in its output of light and energy, which increases every four days. At its apparent distance from us (some 15,800,000 times farther than our Sun) the Pole Star must radiate about 565 times more light and heat than our Sun, increasing to about 620 times every four days. This star is actually composed of two suns which revolve in 29½ years, almost exactly the same time that Saturn takes round our Sun. Their distance apart averages 600 million miles. The larger and more central sun of the two appears to be of the Cepheid class, that is, a sun which periodically expands and then contracts with a regular pulsation. This accounts for the regular variation, in such a short time, of the light from Polaris.

Gamma in Ursa Minor is also composed of two suns, very close together and which, from spectroscopic evidence, appear to revolve round one another in



A Ride on the Roundabout

At a fair in East Ham the Mayor allowed himself a brief relaxation from the dignity of his office to play the part of the gallant fairy-tale knight who carried off the damsel on his fiery steed.

THE SAD LOT OF OUR PIT PONIES

IT comes as an unpleasant surprise to learn that there are still 18,069 ponies working in English and Scottish coal mines, although the use of pony haulage was condemned as out of date in the Reid report on our Coal Industry. This distressingly large figure is given by Mr D. Jeffrey Williams, Secretary of the Pit Ponies Protection Society, in a recent letter to The Times.

He writes that 60 per cent of the 18,069 little toilers in the dark are used in the mines of Durham and Northumberland. It is significant that the production of these mines is below that of areas where far fewer pit ponies are employed. Thus

the Scottish and Lancashire mines, employing between them only 389 ponies below ground, produce 2,000,000 more tons of coal in a year than Durham and Northumberland. Yorkshire mines employ 3332 ponies and produce 5,000,000 tons a year more.

It is sad also to learn that though heavy fines are imposed for cruelty to pit ponies, there is no fine for overworking a pit pony because there is no legal limit to the little fellow's hours of work.

The emancipation of the pit ponies will surely be among the many urgent duties of our new Coal Board.

On Trek Across a Continent

A NEW film now showing in many cinemas is based on a feat of endurance and determination in 1942 when Australia was threatened by a Japanese invasion, writes the C N film correspondent. The film is The Overlanders and it shows the hazards Australian cattle-drovers faced in driving a thousand head of cattle across 2000 miles of open country.

When, in 1942, Japanese advances seriously threatened certain Australian ports, in one of them a thousand head of prize cattle seemed likely to fall into enemy hands. So instructions

were given to a drover to shoot the lot.

The film shows how, rather than be the cause of the destruction of such excellent stock, the drover gathers around him a party of volunteer drovers and states his intention of driving the cattle overland to safety. It means a 2000-mile trek across the wilds of Australia, lasting for eight months!

The great trek begins, and the party overcome boglands, poison weed, lack of water—which necessitates crossing a mountain—crocodiles and, finally, a terrific stampede when only the bravery of the men in facing the charging herd on foot diverts disaster.

There is a touch of the "Western" film about The Overlanders, which was actually made in Australia, and the players, with the exception of Chips Rafferty, an ex-drover who takes the part of the boss-drover, are all non-professional actors gathered together by the film's director, Harry Watt.

This Ealing Studios production is a first-class film of adventure and drama in an original and authentic setting.

G. F. M.

BEDTIME CORNER

ROUND THE YEAR

SPRING'S a lassie garbed in green,
Summer wears a gayer dress,
Winter, old and brown and lean,
Follows Autumn's fruitfulness.

Smoky and Her Kittens

IN Rose and Richard's home one day three little kittens were born. As soon as they were big enough to handle the children carried them around everywhere.

Smoky, the mummy puss, did not like her babies to be handled, for she knew it was not good for them. She mewed continually, but Rose and Richard did not notice her distress.

The tiniest, a lovely grey like his Persian mummy,

was her favourite, probably because he was not so strong as the others. One day he completely disappeared. The children hunted everywhere, but Smoky did not seem anxious, though she would often stay away for quite a long time, and no one could find out where she went.

Then one wet afternoon when Rose and Richard were turning out their dressing-up cupboard in the loft, there was the little grey kitten snugly wrapped up in some old curtains, with Smoky purring contentedly beside him.

Be very gentle with all tiny pets.

Prayer

LET Thy blessing rest upon our home, dear Lord, and lead us all therein in the ways of love and peace. Amen

WRITING INVITATIONS TO A PIXIE PARTY



The Guiding Hand of Radio

A FEW weeks ago a new system of radio navigation for shipping was declared officially in use by the Admiralty and Ministry of Transport. It is the Decca Navigator. What is the Decca Navigator and why is it important to ships?

The story of Decca Navigator is the story of yet another wartime development, amazing because of the ingenuity of the idea and success of its application. In September 1939, not long after the outbreak of the war, a certain Mr O'Brien, a citizen of the United States, wrote to a Mr Schwartz, an American employed by the Decca Record Company of London, setting out a revolutionary idea for the use of radio for the purpose of navigating aircraft. After a relatively short time the idea was turned into reality. Long before D Day the new Navigator was ready for military operation.

The Decca Navigator system should not be confused with radar which, as we know, was being developed as long ago as 1934. A radar apparatus acts as a transmitter and receiver at the same time of short waves. The "echo" which appears in the receiver indicates that something has caused the short wave to "bounce back." This something may be a plane, or an iceberg, or a ship hidden by darkness, or fog, or smoke.

The task of the Decca Navigator is different. At least three transmitters at fixed stations send out long waves.

These transmissions are on different frequencies but are "locked" together so that all start at the same time and remain in step. There is, therefore, a definite phase relationship between the transmissions which varies as the distance from the transmitters varies. By comparison of the phase differences in the Decca Navigator Receiver, a pattern of intersecting curved lines is produced where each line represents a fixed distance from the transmitting stations.

By using these lines, or "lanes," as they are called, to form a special grid on a map or chart, it is possible for a ship or aircraft carrying the receiver to fix its position to within a few yards,

when travelling anywhere within 300 miles from the stations.

Of course—and this difference with radar should be noted—a skipper may be able to plot his position by means of the Navigator, but unless he keeps a sharp look-out (or, better still, carries radar) he may still collide with another ship in fog.

The Decca Navigator has been developed by the British Company from which it gets its name. The English Chain of Decca Navigator stations is now established and works continuously for 24 hours.

The Dutch Government has ordered a quantity of receivers for its navy to use in the clearance of minefields along the coasts of Holland, the "space pattern" being received from the English chain. The Danish Government, too, has bought a complete chain of transmitters and receivers for the hydrographic survey of Greenland.

We may be standing at the threshold of new great developments, with transmitters of this kind covering the coasts of all the continents and receivers fitted in all ships and aircraft, thus enabling every journey to be undertaken in full confidence.

BACK TO SCHOOL IN THE ARMY

THE price of war has included many items which cannot be measured in terms of money, and one of them is an increased proportion of Army recruits who cannot read and write properly.

During the war there was a shortage of teachers, classes were larger, and teachers were unable to give some backward children all the individual attention which they needed. Also it was not possible to keep a complete check on those children whose parents travelled the country, with the result that many of these children had very little schooling. Evacuation, too, had its effect.

The result of all this is now apparent, not only in the calling of peacetime soldiering but in other walks of life too.

The Army authorities have schools for their insufficiently-educated recruits, where everything is being done to make up the necessary leeway in the three Rs and other subjects. Soldiering is an intelligent job nowadays, and no soldier is allowed to remain uneducated.

George Westinghouse and His Brake

A CENTURY ago on October 6 was born the man who gave his name to the most famous brake in the world.

An American by birth, George Westinghouse from his youth onwards was fascinated by engineering. Early in his career he gave his attention to the problem of inventing an ideal brake for railway trains. The success of tools driven by compressed air in the making of the Mount Cenis tunnel between France and Italy set him thinking, and in 1872 he patented his famous air-brake, now used all over the world.

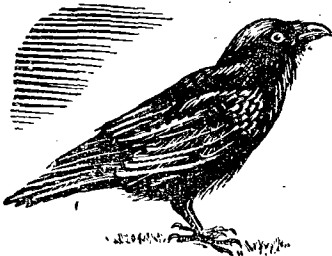
The Westinghouse invention was simple and effective. Air is

THE RAVENS OF THE TOWER

Maintaining an Ancient Tradition

RECENTLY it was reported that the last of the ravens had vanished from the Tower of London. But not for long was the Tower without its popular residents, for two days later a pair of young birds was acquired.

These sagacious, glossy-coated black birds have been associated with the Tower for hundreds of years. During the 14th and 15th centuries ravens were numerous in London. They were protected by law, being deemed invaluable



as scavengers, as indeed they were, for in those far-off days the streets of London were littered with garbage and refuse of every kind.

Ravens are the largest members of the crow family. An average specimen measures about 26 inches in length, and has a wing span of over 36 inches. Tower ravens have their wings clipped, to prevent their flying away.

Despite their grave and dignified manner, ravens are high-spirited and playful birds. It is in some wild and inaccessible spot that they usually choose to dwell, and in such surroundings they have been observed indulging in aerial pranks with one another, hundreds of feet above the earth. In certain parts of Scotland and Ireland ravens are quite common, but in Wales and England they are seldom encountered, except in remote and hilly districts.

Ravens appear to take to captivity more kindly than the majority of wild birds, and are often kept as pets. Most CN readers have probably read about Grip, the pet raven of Barnaby Rudge—the bird which Edgar Allan Poe had in mind when writing his famous poem called The Raven.

Many are the remarkable stories related by the owners of these interesting birds, and if only a small proportion is true, ravens are indeed birds of great intelligence.

One Touch of Nature

THE hum and murmur of the insect world is fading into silence with the shortening of the days as autumn advances.

Gardens, fields, and hedgerows are strewn with myriads of insects that, having run their course, lie at the disposal of birds and animals to which their remains are natural food. But the bulk of those that now thus rest lifeless have served the purpose for which they were intended; they have left successors.

In billions of snug little hiding-places, each to itself, there rest dormant, as eggs, or in the chrysalis stage, the insects of next year, which, with the coming of the sunshine of spring, will emerge perfect into life. Such insects are born orphans. They never see their parents; the parents never see their offspring. Such insects leave fit food and accommodation for their children-to-be.

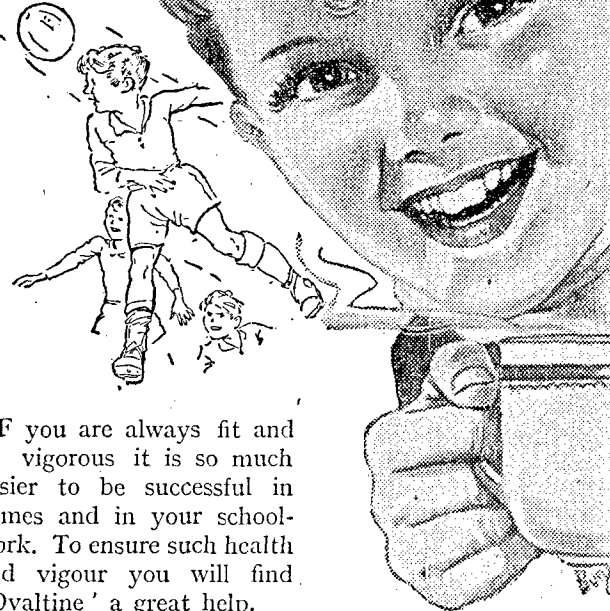
It is a marvel little considered by most of us that the mothers of the bee, of the wasp-nest, and the ant-city so differ from the solitary insects that they are able to live on after egg-laying, and so to see generation after generation of their children. The

older offspring tend and care for the younger, and, if we rightly understand their conduct, delight in their presence.

Scientists teach that the marvels of co-operation attained by the social instincts arise from this contact and association. This, it is thought, is the beginning of the understanding, the give-and-take, and all the ordered marvels of the beehive and ant-city that render these complex little worlds next in efficiency and wonder to the civilisation of Man himself.

"One touch of nature makes the whole world kin," says Shakespeare. The touch that the scientist means is of a different kind, representing actual physical contact. Touch, it is maintained, lays the foundation of a system of law and order without parallel throughout the entire teeming realm of the lower creation. The insects that touch and tend live on; those of solitary habit now lie awaiting the coming of Nature's little scavengers, hungry for autumn breakfasts.

Fitness Wins



IF you are always fit and vigorous it is so much easier to be successful in games and in your school-work. To ensure such health and vigour you will find 'Ovaltine' a great help.

'Ovaltine' is a really delicious beverage, prepared from Nature's best foods—malt, milk and eggs. It provides important nutritive elements which do so much to build up nerves and brain and to create reserves of strength and energy.

Remind mother to put 'Ovaltine' on her shopping list and be sure you make it your regular daily beverage. Remember that 'Ovaltine' also has the advantage of being naturally sweet so that there is no need to add sugar.

Prices in
Gt. Britain and
N. Ireland
2/4 and 4/-

Ovaltine

HEALTH IS NATIONAL INSURANCE

and we are doing our utmost to build up our boys and girls for the place they must take later as responsible citizens. Hundreds will be given holidays this summer away from grimy, devastated Stepney. Will you help—please? Address:

The Rev. RONALD F. W. BOLLOM, Supt.,
THE EAST END MISSION (Founded
1885), Bromley Street, Commercial
Road, Stepney, E.1.

THE SAFE
REMEDY

Owbridge's

LUNG TONIC

FOR
72 YEARS

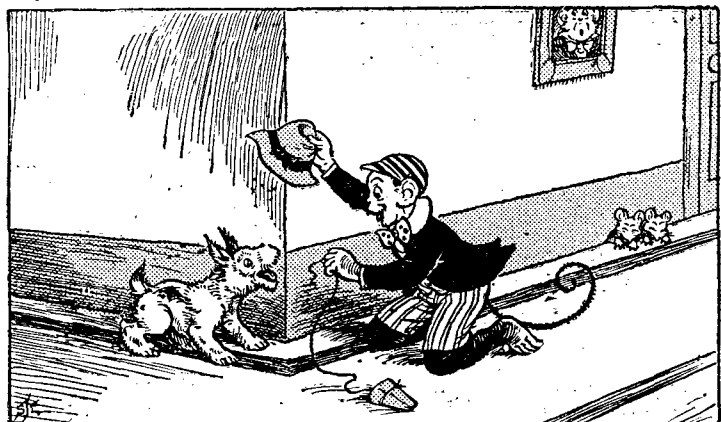
for coughs & colds

A teaspoonful of Owbridge's
each night guards against
infection of throat & chest.

OWBRIDGE'S

PRICES 1/3 inc purchase tax

Jacko Makes the Mice Laugh



THERE were mice in Jacko's house and he invented a new way of catching them. With a piece of cheese and an old hat to clap over them as they nibbled, he crept along the skirting-board. "I can hear one round the corner," he thought eagerly. Bouncer also was stalking what he thought was a mouse round the corner. Both grew very excited and both got a big surprise when they met. The mice were much amused.

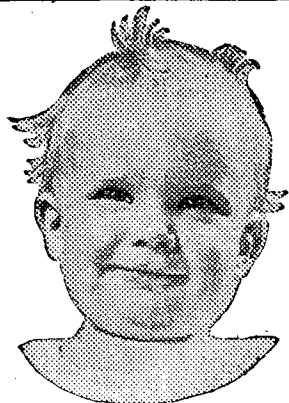
WASTED EFFORT

WHY have you come back to school, Milly? Have you left something behind?

No, thank you, but please will you tell me what I learned today? You see, they will want to know at home.

A QUEER HABIT

THERE was a queer doctor of Crewe, Who never said, How do you do? He would waggle his head Back and forward instead, Till his face had turned perfectly blue.



"Mummy
knows what
helps my
tummy!"

**'MILK OF
MAGNESIA'**

Regd. Trade Mark

A PROVEN PRODUCT OF THE
CHAS. H. PHILLIPS CHEMICAL CO., LTD.

The BRAN TUB

Jumbled Cabinet Ministers

IF the letters of the following phrases are rearranged they will spell the names of six prominent members of the present British Government:

TO LAND TRY CHASE
I SAW MILL OR IS MORN
NOW IS LINK LET EAT

Answer next week

FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

The Heron Provides an Optical Illusion. "Look, a Heron!" exclaimed Farmer Gray to Don, pointing across the stretch of marsh that adjoined the river. Don stared hard, but was unable to distinguish anything resembling a bird.

"Do you mean near that old post that is sticking out of the water?" he asked.

"That is the Heron," chuckled the farmer. "They will stand motionless for hours like that, watching for a meal. Their grey, black, and white feathers blend with the surroundings as Nature intends. Herons will eat fish, frogs, water-voles, young water-fowl, and eels. Sometimes big eels or fish will fight fiercely, but generally a few stabs from the Heron's sword-like bill ends matters."

Like Father, Like Son?

FATHER to son who was using the back of a brush as a hammer:

"That's not the way to drive in a nail. You must use your head, boy!"

FACTS ABOUT TRINIDAD

A BRITISH West Indian island seven miles from the coast of Venezuela, Trinidad is about 50 miles long and from 30 to 35 in breadth. Its area is 1864 square miles. The neighbouring small island of Tobago, 116 square miles, is included in the administration of Trinidad as well as several islets, on one of which, Chacachacare, is a leper colony whose Resident Chaplain has appealed for British newspapers recently.

Population of Trinidad (including Tobago), mostly people of African descent, is estimated at about 546,000. Capital, Port of

Spain (Trinidad), one of the finest cities in the West Indies, population about 105,000.

Trinidad was discovered by Columbus in 1498 and was ceded to Britain by Spain in 1802. In the island is the world-famous pitch lake, 114 acres in extent, from which in 1944 no fewer than 35,477 tons of asphalt were exported.

Trinidad is also a great producer of petroleum. Other products: sugar, cocoa, molasses, copra, limes, and coconuts.

Naval bases in Trinidad were leased to the US in 1941 for 99 years.

The Children's Hour

BBC programmes from Wednesday, October 9, to Tuesday, October 15.

WEDNESDAY, 5.0 Tommy Key-hole and the Cobbler; Sinclair Logan (songs). 5.30 Pencil and Paper—a Guessing Competition. Midland, 5.0 Children in Other Lands—Switzerland. Scottish, 5.0 Magazine Programme. Welsh, 5.0 Golden Boy; Young Artists. West, 5.0 Len May (xylophone and vibraphone); The Fourth Wish—a story.

THURSDAY, 5.0 The Grey Adventurer, (Part 2). Welsh, 5.30 Pig and Parachute; The Wayside Chapel.

FRIDAY, 5.0 Seven White Gates (Part 2); Pigeon Post (Part 2).

SATURDAY, 5.0 Bearsen Academy Choir; Twisty Town; The Puffers—a talk.

SUNDAY, 5.0 He Died Singing—programme about William Blake.

MONDAY, 5.0 Winnie-the-Pooh—by A. A. Milne. 5.25 Victoria Kingsley (songs). 5.40 Film Talk by Eric Gillett. Scottish, 5.0 The Hutman; Edinburgh Ladies' Trio; Round the Zoo at Corstorphine.

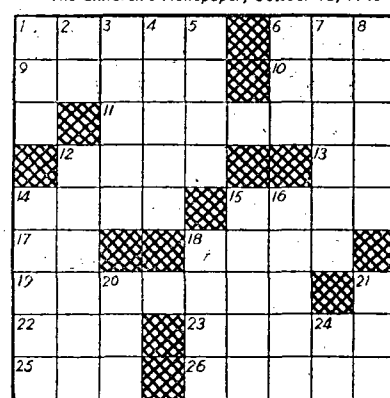
TUESDAY, 5.0 Miss Bushman-Caldicott—the story of a very nice cow; Talk by Boyd Neel. 5.40 The Sports Coach. Scottish, 5.0 Red-cap the Elf (Part 2); Donald and the Gang—Part 1 of a serial play; Wight Henderson (piano).

Cross Word Puzzle

Reading Across. 1 Can be expected at night now. 6 As a result of 1 this will form on poifds. 9 Door fastener. 10 King in Latia. 11 Britannia's symbol. 12 Climbing food-plant. 13 Transpose. 14 Large stringed instrument. 15 Road rearranged makes this girl's name. 17 Indefinite article. 18 Speed contest. 19 Brave. 22 Compass point. 23 View. 25 A pony. 26 Small.

Reading Down. 1 To take to the wing. 2 Royal Academy. 3 Cat-like river-dweller. 4 Fragment. 5 Slender. 6 Wrath. 7 The middle point. 8 Supplementary. 12 Tropical food-plant. (not for buff ration-books). 14 Shelter. 15 To move in rhythm, with music. 16 Musical composition for eight. 18 Coarse file. 20 A limb. 21 A guide. 24 New Testament.

Asterisks indicate abbreviations. Answer next week



HELPFUL

THE workman was very interested in the young driver's efforts to get her small car going again. Presently, taking a piece of string from his pocket, he said:

"Here you are, miss—pull it along with this!"

A Simple Door Stop

A USED cotton reel, nailed down and painted or stained to match the floor, makes a neat and serviceable door stop.

Maxim to Memorise

HUNGER maketh hard beans soft.

BIRD PUZZLE

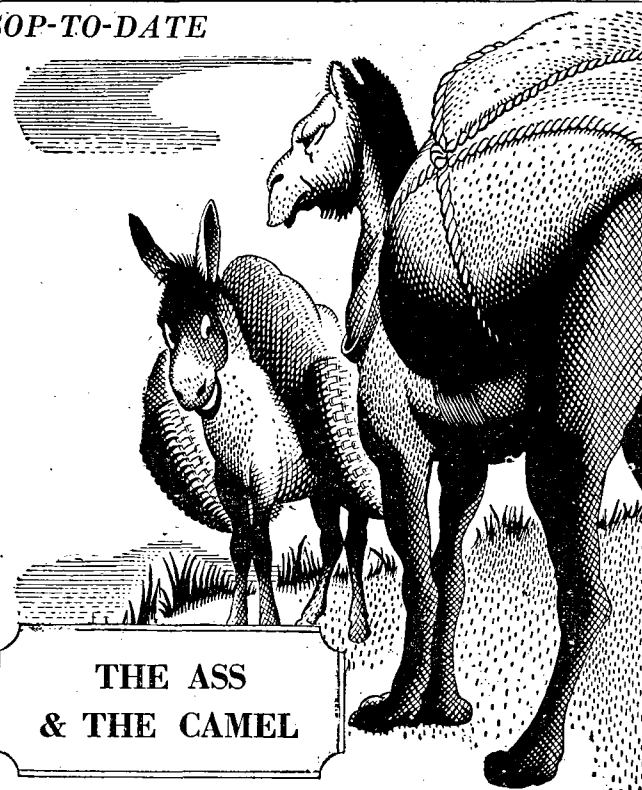
I AM a bird—in marsh I boom. My composition's rather queer:

A little piece, another bird. And there you have me, crystal clear.

Curtail my name, and you find A nasty taste is left behind.

Answer next week

ÆSOP-TO-DATE



THE ASS
& THE CAMEL

An Ass and a Camel, both heavily laden, were deciding which of two roads they should take to their destination. The Ass, lacking in foresight, insisted on taking the one that started downwards, although it climbed stiffly at the end. The Camel, however, said, "I am content to take the path that seems hardest at first with the happy knowledge that it gets easier later on, and I shall be able to enjoy myself more at journey's end."

To-day's Moral to this Savings Fable is:

Look ahead and don't be tempted to spend your Savings yet. Later there'll be even better things to buy. So stay on the right road and keep saving—in the end you'll be glad you did. Keep on buying

**NATIONAL
SAVINGS STAMPS**

EVERY £1 INVESTED WILL HELP TOWARDS THE NATIONAL TARGET OF £520 MILLIONS

Issued by the National Savings Committee